

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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June 8, 2006

Members of the House Energy & Technology Committee:

On behalf of the residents in Northwest Macomb County and over 500 signers of the attached petitions, I am writing to communicate our support for efforts by the Michigan legislature to open up the cable television market to more competition.

The residents in our area do not have access to optional cable television providers. Unlike other communities, our residents do not benefit from the lower prices and better services that are offered when there is competition. Many of these residents are experiencing hard financial times with the Michigan economy or are seniors on fixed incomes. These residents want more choice and better prices. They have indicated this by signing the attached petitions. Our local residents are not that different from residents in many other Michigan communities.

Now that the Michigan Cable and Video Competition Act (HB5895) has been introduced in the legislature, there is an opportunity to develop the policy changes that are needed to create greater competition for cable television consumers in Michigan. The legislation streamlines the franchising process to allow new competitors to quickly enter the market while ensuring local community funding and control are protected. That sounds like a good compromise.

Please work to help pass this legislation to open the door to cable television choice, competition and lower prices for our residents and residents of communities throughout the State of Michigan.

Sincerely,

Don Brown

County Commissioner, District 13

cc: State Representative Brian Palmer